DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Saturday, January 10, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	06:00pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:17am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	9°C
Maximum	24°C
Humidity	32%
Outlook	Sunny

Pakistan-Sri Lanka Twenty20 washed out

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Mercury drops to 9.3°C in Karachi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Mercury dropped to single digit — 9.3 degrees Celsius — for the first time this winter on Friday night in the city, under the influence of chilly Siberian winds affecting the whole country, the Met Department's data showed.

The maximum temperature recorded was 25.1°C. Humidity levels were 44 per cent and 16 per cent in the morning and evening, respectively.

The department has forecast continuation of the cold wave for the next three to four days with a further drop in temperature.

It recorded Mohenjo-Daro and Mithi as the coldest towns in the province with minimum temperatures dropping to three and four degrees Celsius, respectively.

"Right now, the whole country is experiencing an intense cold wave that's an aftereffect of the recent rains," explained Chief Meteorologist Ameer Hyder Laghari.

He added that Karachi's minimum temperature would gradually go up to 12°C to 14°C in the next three to four days.

The senior Met official also pointed to severe foggy conditions currently affecting the region. "In Sindh, its northern parts are seriously affected by foggy conditions that stayed late in the morning. Smog (heavy air pollution) is also contributing to its intensity and significantly reducing visibility," he said.

According to the department's daily forecast, dry weather with cold nights and misty/foggy mornings is likely to prevail in plain areas of the province.

The minimum temperature is likely to range between 8 and 10°C.

PEOPLE gather around a roadside bonfire to stay warm during the cold weather. —Shakil Adil/ White Star

Low gas pressure disrupts domestic kitchens amid cold snap

Chilly winds, gas shortage pile miseries on citizens; SSGC concedes 'technical fault' affecting supply

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: As the mercury dropped to single digit in the city for the first time this winter, low gas pressure in cooking stoves, running on natural gas supply from Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC), has affected a large number of households, compelling them to postpone breakfast preparation at homes for students, office workers, and others.

As the winter hit the city, people have begun lighting bonfires on street corners to keep themselves warm. Gatherings at steaming soup shops have also increased.

At the same time, warm-clothing shops and stores experience a sudden rush of customers.

However, citizens experience a sudden fall in gas pressure with the start of the cold spell, a pattern that repeats every winter, piling miseries on people.

The SSGC acknowledges the problem, saying that the utility is short of 30 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) from one of their fields, which is causing low pressure in parts of the city.

Many residents have complained that the gas pressure has dropped sharply over the past three days, forcing them to turn to costly LPG cylinders as an alternative.

"I woke up to barely a whisper of gas in the morning," grumbled a disgruntled resident of the Defence Housing Authority, adding that the pressure was so low that the tea wouldn't even boil.

Sehrish Rehan, a resident of Saddar, said that the situation was alike in every winter and she had already bought an LPG cylinder to cope with the situation.

"Expecting normal gas supply during winters in Karachi is just living in fool's paradise," she quipped.

A SSGC spokeswoman told *Dawn* that the gas utility was presently dealing with a shortfall of roughly 30 mmcfd of natural gas from one of its production fields.

She said that the reduction stemmed from an unexpected 'technical problem' at that field, which had cut its output and left the utility with less gas than it needed to maintain normal distribution pressures.

The spokesperson said that because the overall supply was now tighter, some districts of the city were seeing lower-than-standard pipeline pressure.

She said to manage the crunch, the government-approved load-management plan prioritised domestic use.

"Fertilizer plants have been shut off and weekly industrial closures are being enforced."

The spokesperson said that the field issue was expected to be fixed by early next week, after which overall supply should improve.

The dip in pressure affected household cooking, heating, and the operation of appliances that rely on a steady gas flow.

She said that the SSGC was grappling with a severe gas shortfall as winter approaches.

"Over the past five years, supply has fallen 57 per cent from 1,156 mmcfd in 2018-19 to 660 mmcfd this year, widening the demand-supply gap," she added.

She said that in Balochistan, winter demand spiked from 60-80 mmcfd to 170-180 mmcfd and the gas utility was now delivering 180 mmcfd there to keep households alive in sub-zero temperatures.

Shopkeeper gunned down by robbers in Al-Falah

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A young shopkeeper was shot dead by robbers in the Al-Falah area on Friday morning, police said.

They said that Shoaib Salam, 25, opened his shop in Al-Badar Society, Malir, when two robbers riding a motorcycle arrived there.

Al-Falah SHO Rao Umair told *Dawn* the robbers held him at gunpoint and snatched cash from him. When they were fleeing, their bike fell in a ditch on the dug-up road. Shoaib chased the suspects and overpowered one of them.

He said that the second robber first fired into the air and then at Shoaib and got his accomplice released. Both the robbers managed to escape.

The shopkeeper sustained critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The victim originally hailed from Rahim Yar Khan and his family has taken the body there for burial.

Two suspects killed in 'encounter'

Two suspected robbers were gunned down, while three others, including two in wounded condition, were arrested after an "encounter" in Surjani Town on Friday, police and rescue services officials said.

They said the encounter took place on the Northern Bypass, where an exchange of fire occurred between police and the suspects. Five suspects, including four who were injured, were apprehended.

They were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where two of them, identified as Irfan Raheem and Safdar Shoukat, were pronounced dead while Dilawar Abdullah and Sohail Husain, both wounded, were admitted for treatment. The fifth suspect was identified as Hamza Mehtab.

Police claimed to have recovered four pistols with ammunition, five snatched mobile phones, cash and two motorcycles from their possession.

Woman shot dead by husband for 'honour'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A woman was shot dead allegedly by her husband, a serving police officer, in the name of so-called honour in Shadman Town on Friday, police said.

A police spokesperson said Nazia, 40, was shot and wounded by her husband, Inspector Tabassum Ahmed, inside their home. During the initial probe, it transpired that the incident occurred after a domestic dispute.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that after receiving information, police rushed to the scene and shifted the wounded woman to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where she later died.

He said the suspect, who managed to escape from the scene, is a serving police inspector posted at the Special Investigation Unit (SIU).

He added that it was the victim's second marriage and that the suspect believed she was still in contact with her former husband.

He said CCTV footage had been obtained and efforts were underway to arrest the killer.

Senate body asks Sindh to curb 'tanker mafia', improve Karachi water supply

KARACHI: Taking notice of the water supply needs of Karachi with the fast growing population, the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat on Friday asked the Sindh government to take swift steps to curb the 'tanker mafia' and upgrade the existing water supply infrastructure of the metropolis.

The committee decided to convene quarterly review meetings to monitor the K-IV and other important projects and expedite the progress on them and also suggested that a joint meeting of all the relevant senate committees with attendance of Sindh chief minister, Karachi mayor and senior officials was held for resolution of Karachi's longstanding water and sewerage woes.

The Senate body, which met with Senator Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan in the chair here at the Sindh Assembly Building, received detailed briefings on the performance of the National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK) and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra).

Senators Farooq Hamid Naek, Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Abdul Qadir Khan, Att-ur-Rehman, Saleem Mandviwala and Shahadat Awan, along with Members of Sindh Assembly Saima Agha, Shariq Jamal, Rana Shoukat Ali and Asif Moosa attended the meeting.

They raised concerns over the water supply problems in Karachi and unauthorised operations of the tanker mafia, lamenting that the tanker mafia had been allowed to hijack the city water supply, forcing citizens to pay for the water.

The committee recommended that the Sindh government take immediate measures to curb the tanker mafia and upgrade Karachi's existing water infrastructure in line with the K-IV water supply project and the rapidly growing requirements of the city.

The committee further decided that the matters related to the funding and progress of the K-IV project would be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

The committee suggested convening a single-point agenda joint meeting of Senate Standing Committees on Finance, Planning and Development, Cabinet Secretariat and Water and Power, with participation of the Sindh Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Mayor of Karachi, Managing Director of KWSC and other stakeholders to resolve water supply and sewerage system issues of Karachi.

The committee was briefed on Nespak's ongoing development portfolio in Sindh and Balochistan.

It was stated that Nespak was currently executing 82 projects in Sindh with a total estimated cost of Rs1,558 billion, while 17 projects were underway in Balochistan.

The committee expressed serious reservations over the slow pace of work on several projects and delays in their completion and directed Nespak to ensure better monitoring and timely execution.

Ogra high-ups, in their online briefing, informed the committee about monitoring of fuel pumps, oil tankers and supply chain mechanism.

A digital tool Raahguzar has been introduced for customers to help them locate all legal fuel stations in the vicinity using GIS technology, report illegal outlets, check rates, and file complaints.

It was further informed that a Track and Trace System has been installed in 15,000 oil tankers to monitor their movement and it will help identify illegal fuel movement and report it to the enforcement authorities.

In the next phase, digital gauging of fuel pumps will also be introduced to ensure transparency and curb pilferage, it was added. —APP

Traffic mess as PTI holds rally to welcome KP chief minister

Police block section of Sharea Faisal near FTC flyover for vehicles

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: A large rally led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi passed peacefully through the city on Friday, with no major incident reported, officials said.

However, it caused traffic congestion on several main roads during peak hours and minor scuffles took place among PTI workers at the airport and outside the Karachi Press Club, where the CM had to arrive.

PTI spokesperson Mohammad Ali Baloch said the chief minister's flight from Islamabad was delayed and he arrived at Jinnah International Airport at around 2pm. He is on a for a four-day visit to Karachi, accompanied by party leaders.

Karachi Traffic DIG Pir Mohammad Shah told *Dawn* that traffic flow slowed on the National Highway near the airport and on Sharea Faisal due to the rally moving from the airport to Insaf House, the party's head office near Nursery.

A section of Sharea Faisal was also blocked due to the placement of containers near the FTC flyover to divert the rally towards Lucky Star in Saddar and onward to the KPC.

He added that traffic was similarly affected when the rally passed through Shahrah-i-Quaideen towards the mausoleum of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and subsequently along M.A. Jinnah Road to the Karachi Press Club.

The DIG said that since Mr Afridi is the CM, he had directed traffic sector officers to provide full facilitation to the rally along its route. "Traffic movement was slow, but it was not blocked," he said.

The Karachi Press Club was the venue for the KP chief executive's meet-the-press programme, where a large number of party workers had gathered and continued chanting slogans.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that no untoward incident was reported but the rally disrupted traffic on several roads adjacent to the KPC.

He added that traffic flow was also affected in parts of the Old City area, where the KP chief minister visited Ghanchi Para on the invitation of the party's provincial lawmaker Sajid Ali Soomro.

However, DIG Raza said temporary barriers had been erected to protect the Red Zone, but the rally did not pass through it and instead proceeded towards Bagh-i-Jinnah via Shahrah-i-Quaideen.

VEHICLES move bumper to bumper on Sharea Faisal. —PPI